

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

May 18, 2021

Title		Council Meeting		President	Wendy Keenan			
Purpose		Monthly Business		Secretary	Bob Ihrig			
Date		May 18, 2021		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Zoom Online Meeting	
Meeting Time		Start	Stop	Total Time		Council Members & Guests		
		7:00 pm	9:03 pm	2 hr 3 min				
Council Members				Present	Absent	Position		
1.	Wendy Keenan			X		President		
2.	James Arentson			X		President-Elect		
3.	Mary Bliesmer			X		Vice President		
4.	Bob Ihrig	2018-2021		X		Secretary		
5.	Diana Olson	2018-2021		X		Treasurer		
6.	Derek Brown	2018-2021		X		Member at Large		
7.	Jessica Auel	2019-2022		X		Member at Large		
8.	Aaron Geringer	2020-2023		X		Member at Large		
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang				X	Lead Pastor		
10.	Pastor Collette Broady Grund			X		Associate Pastor		
11.	Pastor Kristin Engstrom			X		Interim Pastor		
TOPIC						PRESENTER		
1	Devotions						Wendy Keenan	
2	Dear Church Book Study: Chapters 10-11: pp. 122-151						Council	
3	Additions to & Approval of the Agenda New Business C Personnel expanded to include weekend janitor update. Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by D. Olson to approve amended agenda. Approved.						Wendy Keenan	
4	Secretary's Report Approval of April 20, 2021 Minutes Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve printed minutes. Approved.						Bob Ihrig	
5	Financial Report April 30 report unavailable due to current vacation leave of financial secretary. Request will be made by treasurer to transmit report via email to Council upon return to work. No financial issues of concern identified prior to vacation leave.						Diana Olson	
6	Lead Pastor's Report – On Sabbatical Leave – No Report						Pastor Jay Dahlvang	
7	Associate Pastor's Report – Written A. Staffing: Looking forward to working with K. Carter as new LIGHT/ NightLIGHT Coordinator. Coordinating other staff with Pr. Jay on leave. Facilitating work with Pr. Engstrom. Hopeful that Gospbells director situation resolved. Concerned about limited availability of weekend janitors on Saturdays. B. Pastoral Care: Funerals being covered (2 in May, 1 in June). Connecting with BLC members by phone for care. Pr. Engstrom will assume major responsibility for pastoral care during the summer. C. Flags in Sanctuary: Flags moved to back of sanctuary. Questions should be addressed to Pr. Collette. D. Resignation: Planned resignation from pastoral duties presented to Council for discussion & approval. Will become Connections Shelter Church Pastor of Administration & Development on September 1. Last Sunday of BLC work planned for August 22. Upon Council approval, resignation letter to be sent to BLC congregation. Discussion held by Council. Next step for pastoral replacement to be taken by Council in future months. Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to accept resignation with regret and appreciation for Pr. Collette's 10-year service to BLC.						Pastor Collette Broady Grund	

	<p>E. <u>COVID-19 Protocols</u>: Presented proposed revisions to BLC COVID plan from BLC executive committee for discussion and decisions at meeting.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Interim Pastor Introduction & Report</p> <p>A. <u>Introduction/Welcome</u>: Pr. Engstrom introduced & welcomed to Council.</p> <p>B. <u>Settling In</u>: Pleased to be serving as interim pastor during Pr. Jay sabbatical leave. Becoming familiar with BLC activities & designated responsibilities. Preaching & worship leadership schedule set with Pr. Collette. Will post on BLC Facebook page each Tuesday. Looking forward to connecting with BLC members during next 3 months.</p> <p>C. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Will rely on phone calls until personal vaccination completed on May 26 to protect health of self & BLC members.</p>	<p>Pastor Kristin Engstrom</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>BLC COVID-19 Plan Update – Worship Services, Meetings</u>: Discussion held on potential impact of new CDC guidelines regarding vaccinated individuals and church operations. Executive committee recommendations discussed as future framework. Goal is to ease back into normal church operations with a cautious and careful plan for worship & small groups. This recognizes increased vaccination rates for BLC members but also acknowledges the fact that not all members are vaccinated yet. Encouragement of vaccinations emphasized.</p> <p>Motion by D. Olson; Second by D. Brown to approve the following continued or new worship service protocols starting 5/23. Approved. Information to be shared by Pr. Collette with congregation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue mask-wearing requirement for entering building and during worship. 2. Maintain social distancing when in the building. Avoid crowds in narthex, sanctuary and other public areas. Interact outside building. 3. Maintain current protocols for communion, offering, sharing the peace. 4. Resume singing of hymns & liturgy. Return hymnals to pews for congregational use. Sanctuary screen will be limited to non-hymnal information in future. 5. Eliminate special directions & signage for entering & exiting the sanctuary. 6. Return name tags as of 5/30 to narthex for member use. <p>Protocols for special events, funerals, weddings, etc. to be maintained as updated by Council at April meeting.</p> <p>Current protocols for small group meetings and staff operations to be reviewed and updated as needed at June Council meeting.</p> <p>Current building cleaning protocols to be maintained.</p> <p>B. <u>LIGHT/NightLIGHT Coordinator Update</u>: 1 BLC member application & 2 INDEED online resumes received by deadline. Interview of Kaitlin Carter held on 5/13 involving Pr. Collette, Anna Wencil, Brad Groth & B. Ihrig. Unanimous team recommendation to offer position to Kaitlin. Presented to Personnel Committee for recommendation to Council with positive reference feedback. Approved.</p> <p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Arentson to offer Kaitlin the position. Approved. Background check will be conducted as required by BLC. Bob will communicate offer to Kaitlin.</p> <p>C. <u>Facilities Update: Basement Hall Floor Tile Replacement</u>: Bids are being finalized with 2 companies for replacement of all basement hall flooring. Cost goal is \$16,000 or less. BLC funding availability for project to be explored and shared with Council for project approval. Goal is to complete project this summer.</p>	

10	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. <u>Approval of Jeremy Carter as BLC Treasurer:</u> Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by J. Arentson to approve Jeremy Carter as new BLC treasurer for term of 6/1/21 to 5/31/24. Approved.</p> <p>B. <u>May 8 SE MN Synod Assembly</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Funding Request:</u> Motion by M. Bliesmer; Second by B. Ihrig to approve \$750 BLC donation from undesignated memorials to fund special synod programs. Approved. Goal of synod is to raise \$40,000 for this funding appeal from member congregations. Plan will be to include this annual synod appeal in future BLC annual budgets. 2. <u>Synod Assembly Report:</u> Assembly held virtually on May 8 with 300 delegates. Pr. Collette approved as new member of synod Council. All Council and board members approved unanimously. Synod budget and compensation guidelines approved. Pastoral candidates are working through the normal process. Reports presented from various synod groups. Assembly information available on synod website for all members. <p>C. <u>Personnel</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Gospbells Director Update:</u> Meeting held on 5/12 involving Pr. Collette, B. Ihrig & Dr. Wortman regarding future Gospbells director role. Planned reassessment and reorganization of BLC music program & ongoing COVID health concerns have put bell choir on hold. Meeting successfully addressed concerns & resolved issues to mutual satisfaction of all parties. 2. <u>Weekend Janitors:</u> Melissa Wayman to retire after 8/22. Hours will be offered to 2 other janitors first. Posting of position to be done this summer. Personnel will address limited availability of janitors on Saturdays for special events & funerals. <p>D. <u>Acknowledgement of Council Service:</u> W. Keenan, D. Olson, D. Brown: The 3 members of the Council whose terms expire on 5/31 were thanked for their leadership and service to Bethlehem during the past 3 years.</p>	<p>Bob Ihrig</p> <p>Mary Bliesmer, Pr. Collette</p> <p>Bob Ihrig, Pr. Collette</p> <p>Pr. Collette Broady Grund</p>
11	<p>Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Devotions: James Arentson</p> <p>James will consult with Council members to determine a virtual or in-person meeting site.</p>	
12	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Motion by B. Ihrig; Second by M. Bliesmer to adjourn at 9:03 pm. Approved.</p>	

Our Mission: Bethlehem is an inviting community that is growing in Christ, loving our neighbors and serving God's world.